

# Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

May 21 - 28, 2009

27 Iyar – 5 Sivan, 5769



Candle lighting time 8:13 pm  
Friday  
May 22

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services begin at 6:15 pm  
Saturday morning Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 am

**Parashat Behar/Bechukotai** (Torah commentary on pg. 2)

Annual: Numbers 1:1 – 4:20 (Etz Hayim, p. 769)

Triennial: Numbers 2:1 – 3:13 (Etz Hayim, p. 774)

Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 – 42 (Etz Hayim, p. 1216)



Mazel Tov to Ruth Farber on the birth of her great-grandson.



Mazel Tov to Leah Schallheim & Valiant Haller on their upcoming marriage.

**We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:**

Ashley Goodrich, Debra Cohen, Leigh Brody, Jay Freedman, Ross Vogel, Susan Gero, Fran Hirsh, Joshua Perkel, Will Finkelstein, Scott Brody, Nancy Chanin, Scott Bayme, Robert Donner, Gail Krapf

**and a Happy Anniversary to:**

Carol & Alan Schwaber, Margo & Michael Kenirey, Joan & David Kent, Shelley Davidson & Jeff Lehman

**This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:**

Lillian Haskins Katz, Rose Levin, Keyv Kahn, Martin Ellis Kahn, Herbert Krapf, Sylvia Wolf, Blossom Macey Avrunin, Morris Burg, Max Moore, Reuben Max Reifler, Glenn David Tudzin, Kate Cohn Moore, Eda Yardeni Tavor, Rose Barnett Weiss, Rose Graber, Charles A. Harris

We would like to extend our sympathy to Bess Barnett  
and her family on the passing of her sister, Ida Gold.

**Friday - May 22 – 6:15pm**

**Teen Class Shabbat and Confirmation of Molly Bayme,  
Josh Cohen, Matthew Schwartz and Ellen Ziesenhene**



Ellen and Joe Finkelstein invite you to join them for the simcha of their son Will's Bar Mitzvah

Friday May 29 6:15 pm

Saturday May 30 9:00 am\*

\*Shabbat morning services will begin at 9:00 am because it is Shavuot.

*Shavuot  
Service Schedule*

*Day 1:*

Friday, May 29 - 9:00 am

6:15 pm

*Day 2, Yizkor:*

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am



**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday May 31 - 4:00 pm**

Minutes from last year's meeting were mailed out last summer. If you cannot find your copy & would like us to email you another please contact Addie at the CSI office.

**Don't forget the CSI Gift Shop for all your gift needs.**

**\*Weddings\* \*Graduations\* \*Housewarming Gifts\***

**\*Birthdays\* Anniversaries\* \*B'nai Mitzvahs\***

**We have a wedding registry for Leah Schallheim & Valiant Haller.**

**Free gift wrapping and local delivery.**

**Call Terri or Deborah to help you with your shopping needs.**



**Parashat Bemidbar**



*This week's commentary was written by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky, executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute and the author of numerous books about Jewish spirituality. This commentary is provided by special arrangement with the Jewish Outreach Institute, an organization dedicated to creating a more open and welcoming Judaism.*

For the past several weeks, the Torah has been setting out the rules and regulations that we can use as guideposts to help us down our spiritual path. Just before we can get too comfortable and feel we know exactly where we are headed, we find ourselves in the wilderness (literally, b'midbar) once again.

But life is like that too. As soon as we find a rhythm for ourselves and start to take the routine for granted, something challenges that routine--and often that challenge can be life-altering. The shift from our normal routine can be jarring, and we may feel helplessly adrift at first without having the comforting normal rhythms of our lives to fall back on.

Often, though, we realize that the changes may be beneficial for what I call the long haul of life. The challenges we face force us to evaluate ourselves and adapt, adjust, and move forward in our journey. Though we may initially feel lost in the wilderness, the benefits that come from our self-analysis only aid us in our life ahead.

Those who have confronted major adversities in their lives--especially health issues that may be life-threatening--understand. We are forced to change our lives and our lifestyles. Parents of infants understand this issue best of all. Just as soon as they figure out and get used to their new baby's routine, the baby changes it. And they are forced to get used to it once again.

For the Rabbis, the desert, the wilderness is actually a desirable place to be--very different than what the English words perhaps imply. In our parlance, the words conjure images of desolation and helplessness. In the Rabbis' view, however, the desert is a place where we can see more clearly, unencumbered by other distractions. The desert reflects freedom and uncluttered vision, allowing us to take stock of our lives and ourselves in an environment devoid of outside pressures.

This idea of self-accounting is reflected in God's directive to Moses in this Torah portion, which is to "take a census of the people" (Numbers 1:2a). As part of the census, Moses divided the group into tribes and assigned each its own set of responsibilities. A simple head-count was not God's purpose in directing this exercise, nor was it intended as a way to evaluate troop strength in anticipation of preparing to enter the Promised Land.

Taking this census was about assessing our inner strength, helping us to explore what we as the Jewish people can accomplish when we unite our capabilities as individuals.

In building the Big Tent Jewish community we are trying to create, we must consider how those who have cast their lot with us can increase our strength rather than deplete it. The final tally of Moses' census may have provided a definitive population number, but the process itself was intended to help us realize that as a people our strength as a group is greater than the sum of our parts.

~~~~~  
**For other commentaries on this week's Torah portion check out these sites:**

[Aish.com](http://Aish.com)

[ISJL Taste of Torah](http://ISJL Taste of Torah)

[JTS](http://JTS)

[MyJewishLearning.com](http://MyJewishLearning.com)

[USCJ Torah Sparks](http://USCJ Torah Sparks)

**Interested in participating more in Shabbat service?**

**Lead a portion of services**

**Read Torah**

**Chant the Haftarah**

**Call Rabbi Bat-Or and she will help you make it happen.**

Congregation Sha'arey Israel can make a little extra money...

1. visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your online searches. This won't cost you anything but CSI makes a penny each time you search.

2. for all your online shopping needs go to [csimacon.org](http://csimacon.org) and click on our Amazon.com link.

every time



you



CSI earns

-----  
Contact information:

**CSI Board of Governors**

*President* - Marty Koplin - [president@csimacon.org](mailto:president@csimacon.org)

*Vice-President* - David Frolich - [bb217@bellsouth.net](mailto:bb217@bellsouth.net)

*Recording Secretary* - Debbie Ziesenhene - [debbiez@cox.net](mailto:debbiez@cox.net)

*Corresponding Secretary* - Jenna Denisar - [jennakap@aol.com](mailto:jennakap@aol.com)

*Treasurer* - Meredith Lipson - [treasurer@csimacon.org](mailto:treasurer@csimacon.org)

*Ex-Officio* - Shelley Davidson - [lawonwheels@cox.net](mailto:lawonwheels@cox.net)

*Rabbi* - Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or - [rabbi@csimacon.org](mailto:rabbi@csimacon.org)

*CSI Secretary* - Addie Schmidt - [secretary@csimacon.org](mailto:secretary@csimacon.org)

Committees:

*Adult Education* - Billy Singer - [wsinger7237@yahoo.com](mailto:wsinger7237@yahoo.com)

*Board of Education* - Marty Koplin

*Cemetery* - Sol Hirsh - [solhirsh@aol.com](mailto:solhirsh@aol.com)

*Gifts & Memorials* - Francie Marshall - [franciep@bellsouth.net](mailto:franciep@bellsouth.net)

*House* - Jay Freedman - [jfreedman@aol.com](mailto:jfreedman@aol.com) or [jay.freedman.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:jay.freedman.ctr@us.af.mil)

*Membership* - Shelley Kruger - [skruger5@cox.net](mailto:skruger5@cox.net)

*Ritual* - Jeff Lehman - [jalroadtrip@cox.net](mailto:jalroadtrip@cox.net)

*Social Action* - Steve Chanin - [stephen.chanin@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.chanin@gmail.com)

*Ways & Means* - David Frolich - [bb217@bellsouth.net](mailto:bb217@bellsouth.net)

-----  
**Quick links:**

**[CSI Macon Online](#)**

[United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism \(USCJ\)](#)

[JTS Podcast - this week's Parsha](#)

[Audio Siddur](#)

[Global Jewish News Service](#)

[Israeli News Broadcast – in English](#)

[Crash Course in Jewish History](#)

[The Jewish Ethicist](#)

[The Jewish Women's Archive](#)

[Hadassah](#)

[Synagogue 3000](#)

[Learn through USCJ online](#)

[AJU - Walking with God series](#)

[The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#)

**For the children (or the young at heart):**

[Torah Portion Coloring Pages](#)

[Babaganews Torah Parasha of the week movie](#)